

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 18 and added new claims 27-28. As a result, claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-17, 20-21 and 23-28 are pending in this application. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

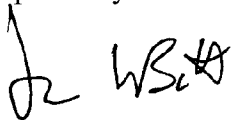
In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-17, 20-21 and 23-26 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for noticing the patentable subject matter of these claims. However, the Office rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,236,124 (Rockwood) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,767,969 (Chevalier) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,989,052 (Okada). By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 18, without prejudice.

In the rejection, the Office presents the identical arguments as those previously presented in rejecting claim 19 in an Office Action dated 28 December 2005. To this extent, Applicants believe that the Office inadvertently rejected claim 19 instead of claim 18 in that Office Action. As a result, Applicants have added a new claim 27 that corresponds to the previously canceled claim 19 and respectfully submit that claim 27 is allowable as presented as indicated with respect to claim 19 in an Office Action dated 12 July 2005. Further, Applicants have added a new claim 28, which includes all of the features of the previously allowed claim 21 with the additional limitation that the radiation comprises at least one of: terahertz radiation and microwave radiation. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is allowable as presented. However, should the Examiner believe that either claim 27 or claim 28 is not allowable as

presented, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' undersigned representative to resolve any issues in an expedited manner and facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. LaBatt' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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